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SUBJECT Spies

LLOYD DOBYNS: Our story is about spies, and the location is here in Vienna.

There are a lot of spies in Vienna, ours and theirs. This story is about one of ours pretending to be one of theirs. His name was Nicholas Shadrin. He defected from the Soviet Union in 1959 and disappeared from Vienna in 1975. The question is: Was he kidnapped by the KGB, or did the CIA give him to them? We don't have the answer, but looking for it has made a fascinating story.

We know that story ended on December 20th, 1975 in Vienna. A naturalized American citizen was missing, and no one seemed to want to find him.

In 1959 Nicholas Shadrin, the youngest destroyer commander in the Soviet Navy, defected. He and Eva Gora (?) crossed the Baltic from Poland to Sweden in an open boat, an amazing bit of seamanship by Shadrin and a dreadful political embarrassment for the Soviets.

They stayed briefly in Sweden. Mrs. Shadrin remembers that when they decided to come to the United States, a Swedish Navy commander warned them that the Americans were as callous as the Soviets and would use and abandon Nick.

Their first stop in the United States was a CIA safe-house on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Nick Shadrin became friendly with the man who ran it, Pete Sevess (?).